

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A process is provided herein for preparing molecularly imprinted polymers for detecting a target analyte by Reversible Addition Fragmentation Chain Transfer (RAFT). The process includes providing a complex having the formula L_3M wherein L is a β -diketone ligand containing a chain transfer moiety and L_3 can be the same or different ligands, and M is a lanthanide element; reacting the complex with the target analyte to provide an adduct containing the target analyte; co-polymerizing the adduct with a monomer and cross-linking agent to provide a polymer; and removing the target analyte from the polymer to provide the molecularly imprinted polymer.